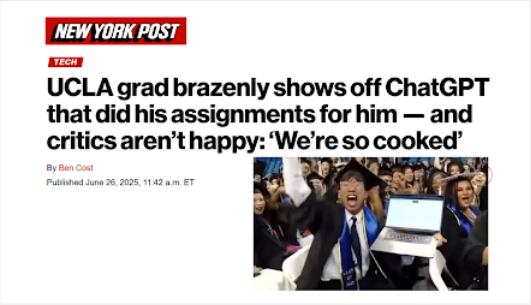
UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

Saturday, July 5, 2025

Much Ado


NEW YORK POST

TECH

UCLA grad brazenly shows off ChatGPT that did his assignments for him — and critics aren't happy: 'We're so cooked'

By Ben Cost

Published June 26, 2025, 11:42 a.m. ET

A UCLA undergrad at his graduation ceremony in Pauley, showed how he completed his final assignment using AI (ChatGPT) when the Jumbotron camera was on him. Much viral debate followed as to whether he cheated. His own explanation, which you can see below, seems more benign:

Or direct to https://www.instagram.com/p/DLVWkfoPnej/.

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Note: The NY Post article shown above is at:
https://nypost.com/2025/06/26/tech/ucla-grad-brazenly-shows-off-chatgpt-that-did-his-assignments-for-him-and-critics-arent-happy-were-so-cooked/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: plagiarism, UCLA

Straws in the Wind - Part 30

From The Hill: *Public universities in Florida, Texas, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee are eschewing long-standing accrediting bodies like the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to create their own certification panel, officials announced Thursday. The formation of the new Commission for Public Higher Education (CPHE) follows Republican Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis's battle with SACSCOC over its standards as he pushed his state's colleges to adopt more conservative approaches to education.*

"[The new body] will upend the monopoly of the woke accreditation cartels, and it will provide institutions with an alternative that focuses on student achievement, rather than the ideological fads that have so permeated those accrediting bodies over the years," DeSantis said at an event at Florida Atlantic University...

DeSantis said leaders of the new body have been working with the Department of Education under the Trump administration to receive expedited federal approval for the new accreditation model to undergo a "trial run" that will entice more states to join...

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

- Faculty leaders comment on UCB Chancellor Lyon's appearance before House Committee on Education and the Workforce
- CUCFA Opposes AB 715
- Pause Trellix and Form a Working Group to Explore Cybersecurity Solutions
- Objection to AB 1217, AB 684, and AB 500 – Protecting UC's Institutional Autonomy
- Delay the UC cybersecurity mandate

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- Liner Note 34: Derailing the Columbia Precedent - 7/27/2025
- The onto-epistemic limits of current American academic debates, Or what the modern West can't think (Guest Post) - 7/25/2025
- Liner Note 33. Trouble at the Irvine Core (UC Irvine Part 2) - 7/12/2025

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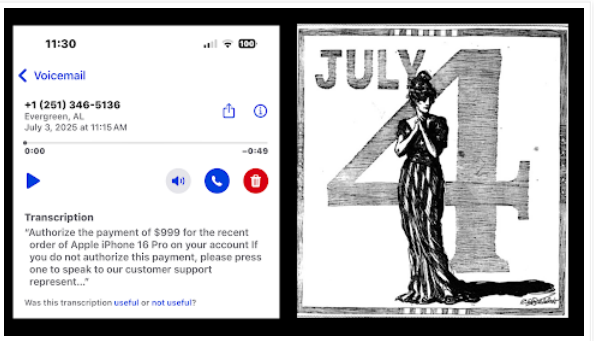
Full story at https://thehill.com/homenews/education/5371204-southern-public-universities-accreditation-panel/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: Florida Atlantic U, politics

Friday, July 4, 2025

Just a Reminder: Your July 4th Will Be Happier...


11:30
Voicemail
+1 (251) 346-5136
Evergreen, AL
July 3, 2025 at 11:15 AM
0:00
-0:49
Transcription
"Authorize the payment of $999 for the recent order of Apple iPhone 16 Pro on your account If you do not authorize this payment, please press one to speak to our customer support represent..."
Was this transcription useful or not useful?
JULY 4

...if you ignore and delete phone messages such as the one above.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 6:59 AM No comments:

Labels: email fraud

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 29

From the Wall St. Journal: *Harvard University and other top research schools are seeking corporate funders to support their science labs following sweeping cuts to government grants. The T.H. Chan School of Public Health at Harvard, which* ***typically gets more than 70% of its annual research dollars from the federal government****, lost nearly all of the funding after the Trump administration canceled hundreds of the university's research grants and contracts. The school expected to get more than $200 million this fiscal year.*

Administrators called the losses catastrophic. "The situation is far more dire at the Chan school than any other Harvard school," said Sarah Branstrator, Chan's managing director of academic strategy and research partnerships. "That has prompted immediate action out of sheer necessity." Layoffs started this spring and are continuing, Branstrator said, and unless cuts are reversed, the school expects to wind down half of its federally funded research in the next fiscal year.

The cancellations come amid months of tension between Harvard and the Trump administration, which has cited concerns about antisemitism and DEI efforts as the reason to cut or freeze more than $2 billion in Harvard funds, threaten its tax-exempt status and try to revoke its ability to enroll international students...

Branstrator said that even if funding is restored, Chan will "absolutely stay the course" in seeking outside sources for funding to decrease its reliance on government support. The focus on corporate sponsorship at Chan, which is further along in its planning, is a big shift for a school that typically gets between 14% and 18% of its annual research budget from nongovernment funders. Previously, Chan's administrators scrutinized and often renegotiated corporate partnerships to avoid conflicts of interest for its scientists. Now, the school is aiming to tap alumni who work in corporate R&D labs and its deep bench of faculty who serve on scientific advisory boards to broker conversations at companies across the life sciences.

"We're hoping for them to play door-opener," Branstrator said. The school aims to preserve the independence of university scientists, for example with agreements that guarantee scientists can publish their findings with no input from companies, Branstrator said...

Full story at https://www.wsj.com/us-news/education/harvard-funding-corporate-sponsors-4ee36388.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, Harvard, health care, politics

Straws in the Wind - Part 29

From News5Cleveland: *A controversial new Ohio higher education law banning diversity efforts, prohibiting faculty strikes and regulating classroom discussion takes this week. Ohio Senate Bill 1 [went] into effect [June 27].*

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Contributors

- California Policy Issues
- Toby Higbie
- UCLA Faculty Association

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine signed S.B. 1 into law on March 28 after it quickly passed the House and Senate earlier this year. S.B. 1 creates post-tenure reviews, puts diversity scholarships at risk, sets rules around classroom discussion, and creates a retrenchment provision that blocks unions from negotiating on tenure, among other things. The law affects Ohio's public universities and community colleges...

Some of Ohio's public universities have started making decisions because of the new law. Ohio University announced it will close the Pride Center, the Women's Center and the Multicultural Center. The University of Toledo is suspending nine undergraduate programs. Kent State University is closing its LGBTQ+ Center, Women's Center and Student Multicultural Center...

Full story at https://www.news5cleveland.com/news/state/new-ohio-higher-education-law-banning-diversity-efforts-and-faculty-strikes-takes-effect-this-week.

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From the NY Times: *The University of Virginia's president, James E. Ryan, has told the board overseeing the school that he will resign in the face of demands by the Trump administration that he step aside to help resolve a Justice Department inquiry into the school's diversity, equity and inclusion efforts, according to three people briefed on the matter. For the leader of one of the nation's most prominent public universities to take such an extraordinary step demonstrates President Trump's success in harnessing the investigative powers of the federal government to accomplish his administration's policy goals.*

The New York Times reported... that the Justice Department had demanded Mr. Ryan's resignation as a condition to settle a civil rights investigation into the school's diversity practices. In a letter sent on Thursday to the head of the board overseeing the university, Mr. Ryan said that he had planned to step down at the end of the next academic year but "given the circumstances and today's conversations" he had decided, "with deep sadness," to tender his resignation now, according to one of the people familiar with the matter who was briefed on the contents of the letter...

Full story at https://www.nytimes.com/2025/06/27/us/politics/uva-president-resigns-jim-ryan-trump.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, Kent State U, Ohio University, politics, U of Toledo, U of Virginia

The Money

In a prior post, we noted that July brings with it a change in the way student athletes are compensated.* From CalMatters:

...California's top universities can pay their athletes directly — a dramatic shift in college sports that blurs the line between amateur and professional play. Schools have yet to say how much individual students will actually make or when checks might arrive, though a CalMatters estimate suggests some student-athletes at UC Berkeley could make roughly $200,000 a year... At public universities, such as UC Berkeley or UCLA, schools could use taxpayer dollars to make these payments. State or institutional funds already support roughly 30% of UC Berkeley's athletic budget...

UC Berkeley currently has about 900 athletes but will eventually need to cut roughly 100 players to meet the requirements of the [House legal] settlement, Chancellor Rich Lyons said in a statement on June 11. Using a mix of current revenue and new fundraising, he said the university hopes to pay $12 million to its football players, $3 million to men's basketball players and $1 million to women's basketball players. If UC Berkeley were to divide it evenly — which is unlikely — that means this year, each men's basketball player would receive roughly $200,000, each football player would receive roughly $100,000 and each women's basketball player would receive around $60,000. Lyons did not mention paying any other athletes, though they could still receive a scholarship and, if approved, certain brand deals or donations.

UC Berkeley declined to respond to CalMatters' questions seeking further clarification... UCLA is not saying how much it will allocate to each of its athletic teams but Athletic Director Martin Jarmond has said that the school will distribute a total of $20.5 million, the maximum yearly amount allowed...

Some of the money for sports at California's public universities comes from TV deals, ticket sales and parking fees, but some also comes from the college's general fund, which is taxpayer-supported, and from fees that all students pay to their university...

Full story at https://calmatters.org/education/higher-education/2025/07/college-athletes-california/.

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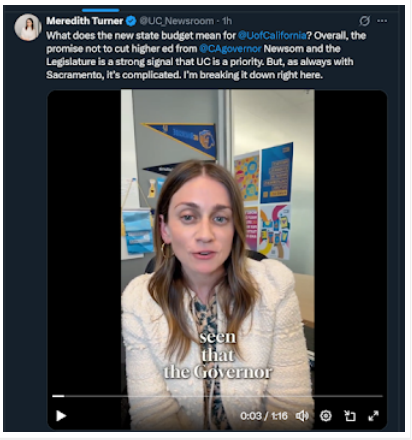
*https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2025/06/tomorrow-is-money-day.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: athletics, UC-Berkeley, UCLA

UC's Budget Response


Meredith Turner @UC_Newsroom · 1h
What does the new state budget mean for @UofCalifornia? Overall, the promise not to cut higher ed from @CAgovernor Newsom and the Legislature is a strong signal that UC is a priority. But, as always with Sacramento, it's complicated. I'm breaking it down right here.
seen
that
the Governor
0:03 / 1:16

UC seems to be developing a new PR arrangement, at least with regard to the state budget and UC's allocation. UC's senior VIP for external relations tweets out a response. Thanks for no (nominal) cut but the deferral of what should be provided is only a true deferral if the legislature keeps its promise to repay the deferral next year. As we have often noted on this blog, no legislature can obligate future legislatures to do anything. See below:

Or direct to https://ia902901.us.archive.org/7/items/newsom-7-2-2025-arrests-of-immigrants/UC%20official%20response%20to%20budget%207-3-2025.mp4.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: legislature, politics, UC budget crisis

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